



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 148

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2002

No. 127

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today, our prayer will be delivered by our guest Chaplain, from the other side of the Hill, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Lord of history and the mystery guiding our future, be present to all the Members of the U.S. Senate today. Gather them in Your Spirit for their meetings. Guide them in their deliberations as they form consensus and lead Your people in the ways of justice and peace. May the human laws enacted by this Government be based upon the dignity of the human person, rooted in Your order of creation, and achieve the destiny You have ordained for the people of this country and the community of nations at this time. May the people of this great Nation be so blessed by You that we become a blessing for the people around the world. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 2, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CLINTON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3018

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I understand that S. 3018 is at the desk and is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask that S. 3018 be read for a second time, and then object to any further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3018) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance beneficiary access to quality health care services under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. shall be under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

Under the previous order, the first 20 minutes shall be under the control of the Senator from Vermont, Mr. JEFFORDS.

The Senator from Vermont.

THE FORGOTTEN AGENDA

Mr. JEFFORDS. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the state of our Nation.

Our President has asked us to give him the authority to begin a war with Iraq, and I look forward to a full and frank debate on that question.

But today I want to discuss other issues, important issues that are not getting the attention they deserve, an agenda the President would rather not discuss, an agenda I fear is being obscured by gathering clouds of war.

Whether or not to go to war in Iraq is surely a grave and momentous decision, but I fear our President is neglecting other crucial matters here at home: the quiet crisis American families are facing everyday.

In Vermont and across this great land families are hurting. When they send their children to an overcrowded, underfunded school in the morning, they ask, is this the best we can do? When they go to work and see an empty desk beside them they wonder, am I next? And they ask, is this the best we can do? When they see their dwindling retirement accounts and read of endless corporate corruption, they ask, is this the best we can do? When they have to cancel their child's doctor's appointment because they

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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